

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 09500 01 OF 02 241350Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /061 W
-----100660 241413Z /42

O R 241334Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8839
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 09500

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO PORG
SUBJECT: EAST-WEST STUDY PUBLIC DOCUMENT

REFS: (A) BONN 9467 DTG 240825Z MAY 78 NOTAL
(B) STATE 131755 DTG 240038Z MAY 78
(C) USNATO 5214 DTG 240942Z MAY 78 NOTAL
(D) STATE 130353 DTG 230309Z MAY 78
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BEGIN SUMMARY. WHILE INITIALLY NEGATIVE TO THE US
DRAFT PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE EAST-WEST STUDY, THE
FOREIGN OFFICE HAS AGREED TO STUDY IT WITH "AN OPEN MIND
AND AN OPEN SPIRIT." THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS MISGIVINGS
ABOUT BOTH THE LENGTH AND THE CONTENT OF THE US DRAFT
BUT IS NOW GOING OVER IT IN AN EFFORT TO SEE WHETHER

AGREEMENT ON A TEXT CAN BE REACHED IN THE TIME
REMAINING. END SUMMARY.

1. AN EARLY MORNING APPOINTMENT WITH SOVIET OFFICE
DIRECTOR KUEHN, ALREADY SCHEDULED, PROVIDED AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR EMBOFFS TO REINFORCE USG INTEREST IN A
MEANINGFUL PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE EAST-WEST STUDY, AS
INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL (B). KUEHN SAID WHEN WE ARRIVED
THAT HE HAD JUST FINISHED BRIEFING HIS SUPERIORS FOR THE
MORNING DIRECTORS' MEETING ON THE ISSUE, AND WE TOOK
THE OCCASION TO NOTE THAT THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED
TO REINFORCE ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST'S DEMARCHE TO
AMBASSADOR VON STADEN.

2. KUEHN INDICATED THAT THERE WAS SOME EARLY MORNING
CONFUSION IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE AS TO
PRECISELY WHAT THE ISSUE WAS. HE, LIKE WE, HAD NOT YET
RECEIVED REPORTING ON YESTERDAY'S DISCUSSIONS IN
BRUSSELS (WE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED REF C), AND,
IN ADDITION, VON STADEN'S REPORT FROM WASHINGTON HAD
SUGGESTED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST'S CALL WAS
RELATED TO THE SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE. KUEHN SAID THE FRG
NATO REP HAD WEIGHED IN WITH A CLARIFICATION OF THE
LATTER POINT AND HAD ALSO CABLED THE TEXT OF THE US
DRAFT PUBLIC STATEMENT, WHICH HE (KUEHN) HAD GONE OVER
QUICKLY AND WHICH WAS THEN BEING DISCUSSED AT THE
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DIRECTORS' MEETING.

3. KUEHN WAS EXTREMELY NEGATIVE TO THE US PROPOSAL AND
EXPRESSED SEVERAL OBJECTIONS:

-- THE US DRAFT WENT CONSIDERABLY BEYOND A
SIMPLE PRESS RELEASE ON THE EAST-WEST STUDY. THE
FOREIGN OFFICE HAD THOUGHT THAT THE IS DRAFT WAS
PERHAPS TOO LONG, AND ITS DIFFICULTIES WITH THE US
DRAFT WERE ACCORDINGLY GREATER.

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-- WHILE HE HAD NOT SEEN THE TEXT OF THE SUMMIT
DECLARATION WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD THE US HAD PROPOSED, HE
ASSUMED THAT IN DROPPING THE DECLARATION IDEA THE USG
NOW WISHED TO GET SOME OF THE THOUGHTS FROM THAT DRAFT
INTO THE STATEMENT ON THE EAST-WEST STUDY.

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-- THE ALLIANCE HAD NEVER AGREED TO "PUBLISH"
THE EAST-WEST STUDY, AND THE US SEEMED AT THE LAST
MOMENT TO BE SUGGESTING IN EFFECT THAT THIS BE DONE.

-- EVEN IF THE IDEA OF A LENGTHY PUBLIC STATEMENT
WERE ACCEPTED, THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME AT
THIS LATE DATE TO AGREE ON A TEXT. IT WAS CLEAR FROM A
QUICK READING OF THE US DRAFT THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL

PASSAGES TO WHICH THE FRG WOULD BE UNABLE TO AGREE.

3. EMBOFFS THEN WENT OVER THE RATIONALE FOR THE US POSITION AS STATED IN PARAS 1, 2, AND 3 OF REF (D) IN DETAIL. WE EMPHASIZED THE HIGHEST LEVEL USG INTEREST IN THE DOCUMENT, STRESSED THE NEED FOR USING MORE THAN A SIMPLE PRESS STATEMENT TO DESCRIBE THE RESULTS OF THIS SIGNIFICANT STUDY WHICH HAD BEEN CONCEIVED AT ONE NATO SUMMIT AND APPROVED AT ANOTHER, AND POINTED OUT THAT THE US DRAFT WAS A SANITIZED VERSION AIMED AT PRESERVING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE ALLIANCE DISCUSSIONS. WE ALSO NOTED THAT, WHILE IT WAS QUITE TRUE THAT TIME WAS SHORT, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, IF THE ALLIANCE ACCEPTED THE NEED FOR A FULLER STATEMENT, TO AGREE TO A TEXT BETWEEN NOW AND THE SUMMIT.

4. EMBOFFS ALSO NOTED THAT THE TWO MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SUMMIT WOULD BE AGREEMENT ON THE EAST-WEST STUDY AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE LTDP. A SHORT PRESS RELEASE ON THE FIRST ITEM WOULD BE INADEQUATE FOR SATISFYING PUBLIC AND PRESS INTEREST IN THE NATURE OF THE WIDELY PUBLICIZED STUDY.

5. WHILE TAKING NOTE OF OUR PRESENTATION, KUEHN
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REITERATED MOST OF HIS OBJECTIONS. HE UNDERTOOK TO LET US KNOW WHAT WAS DECIDED AT THE DIRECTORS' MEETING.

6. IN A FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION, KUEHN TOLD US THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT THE US DRAFT SHOULD BE STUDIED URGENTLY "WITH AN OPEN MIND AND OPEN SPIRIT." KUEHN IS IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING A DETAILED STUDY OF THE US TEXT, AND IS ALSO CONTACTING BRUSSELS TO GET A CLEARER IDEA OF THE TIMETABLE FOR DISCUSSIONS THERE. WHILE HE BELIEVES THAT THE END RESULT WILL HAVE TO BE A MUCH SHORTER TEXT, IT APPEARS THAT THE FRG WILL BE WILLING TO USE THE US DRAFT AS A BASIS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS.
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